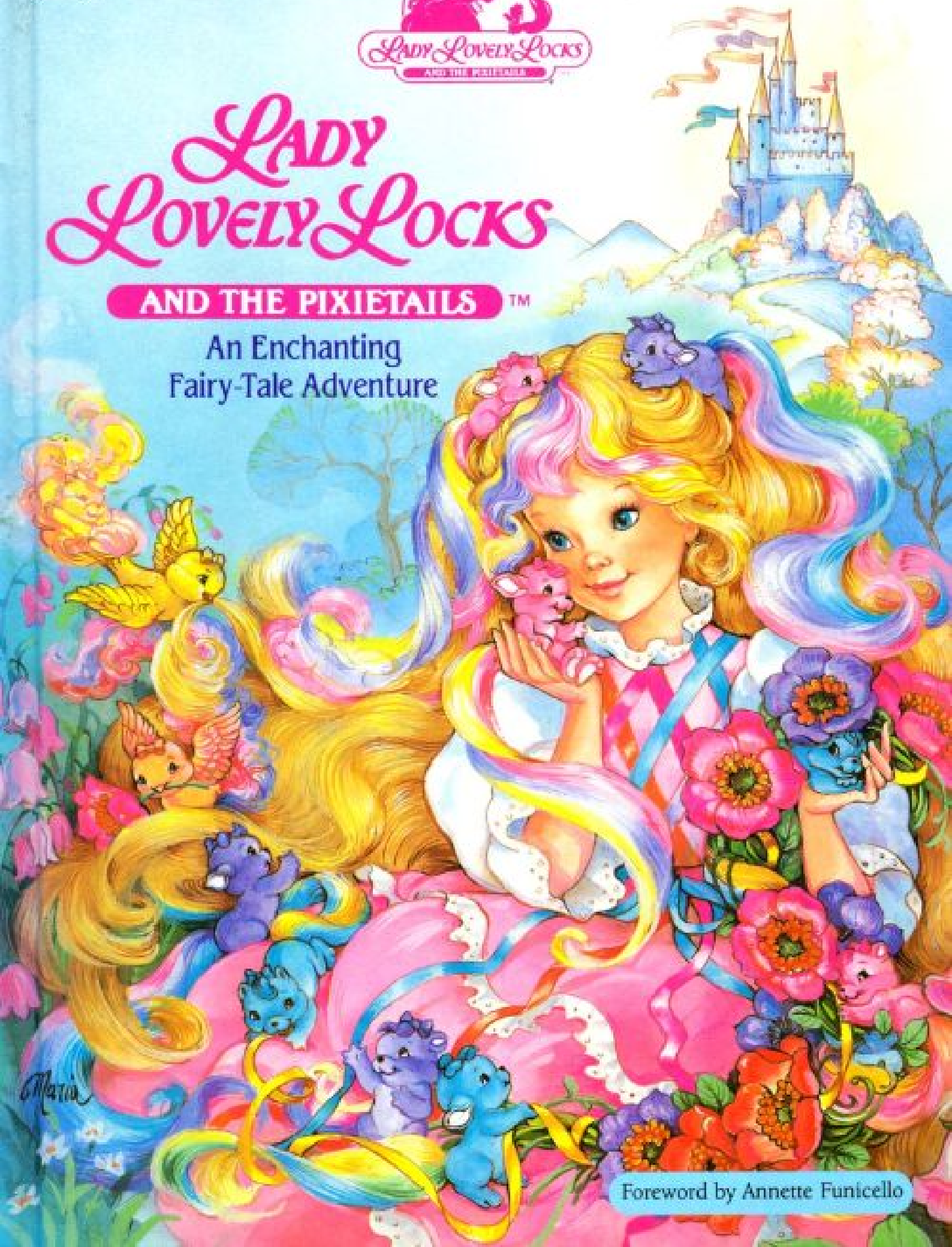
A Golden Book®

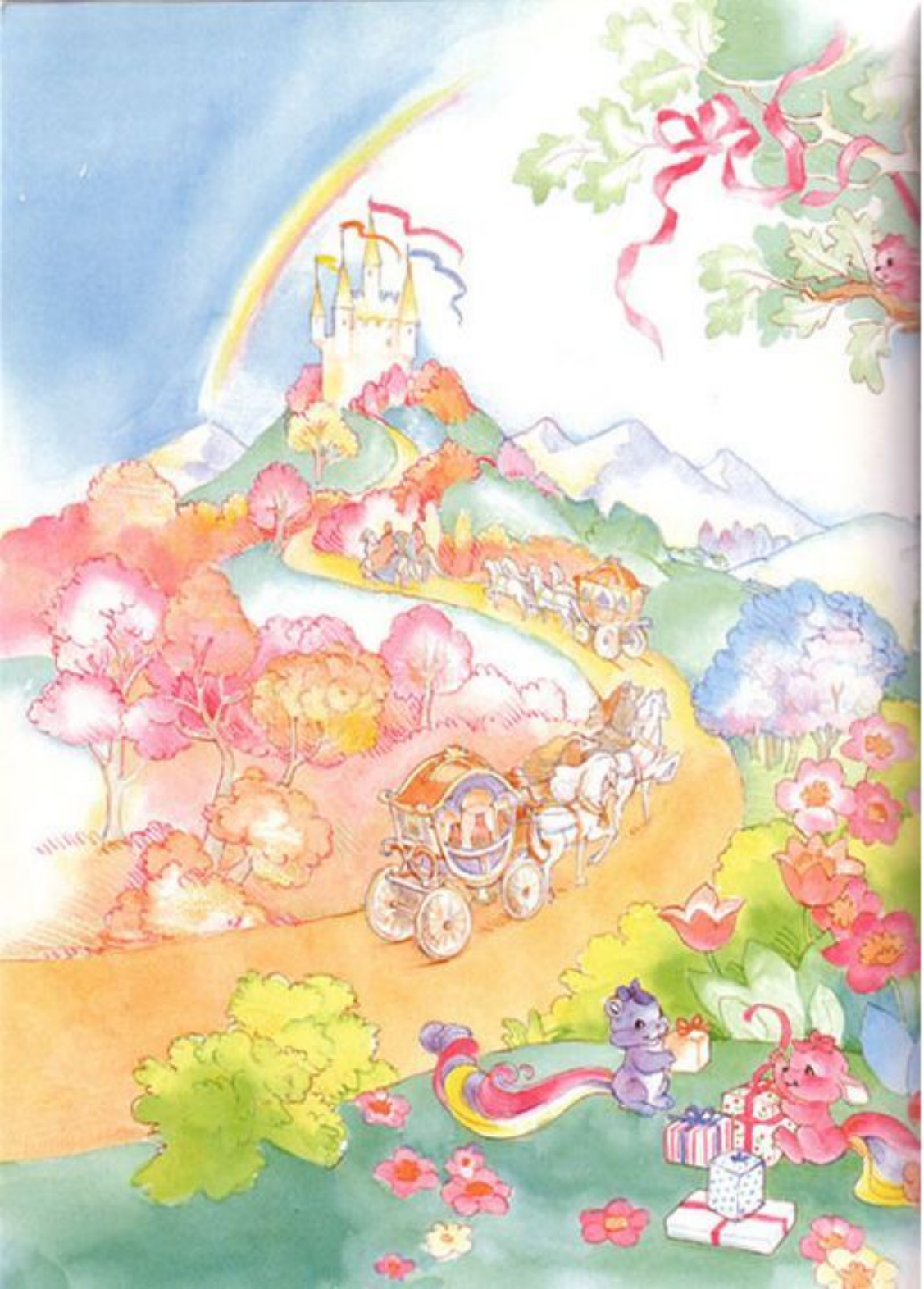
LADY LOVELY LOCKS

AND THE PIXIETAILS™

An Enchanting
Fairy-Tale Adventure



Foreword by Annette Funicello



LADY LOVELY LOCKS AND THE PIXIETAILS™

An Enchanting Fairy-Tale Adventure

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Foreword by Annette Funicello

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B C D E F G H I J

FOREWORD

The book you are about to read is an enchanting fairy tale full of excitement, adventure, magic, and fun. It introduces children to a fantasy world with the types of characters and situations they love best. They will find a beautiful heroine and her loyal friends, a wicked villainess, a kind wizard, and a host of adorable, helpful little creatures that inhabit the Kingdom of LovelyLocks.

This is the kind of story that I have always loved sharing with my children. I know yours will love it, too. Certainly much of the pleasure of reading it comes from its entertainment value. But also, like traditional fairy tales that people have passed down for generations, this story makes valuable observations on life.

Lady LovelyLocks and the Pixietails help children understand that not everything is what it appears to be. And Lady shows them through her own actions that if one wishes to be a truly beautiful person, beauty must begin on the inside.

As someone who has long been involved with children's entertainment, I can wholeheartedly say that this book will appeal to your child's imagination. And I hope it will be an experience that you, too, can share.

Fondly,

Annette Funicello

Annette Funicello

CHAPTER I

The Most Beautiful Kingdom

Once upon a time there was a beautiful kingdom called LovelyLocks. The happy people who lived in the land adored their king and queen and were overjoyed when a baby daughter joined the royal family.

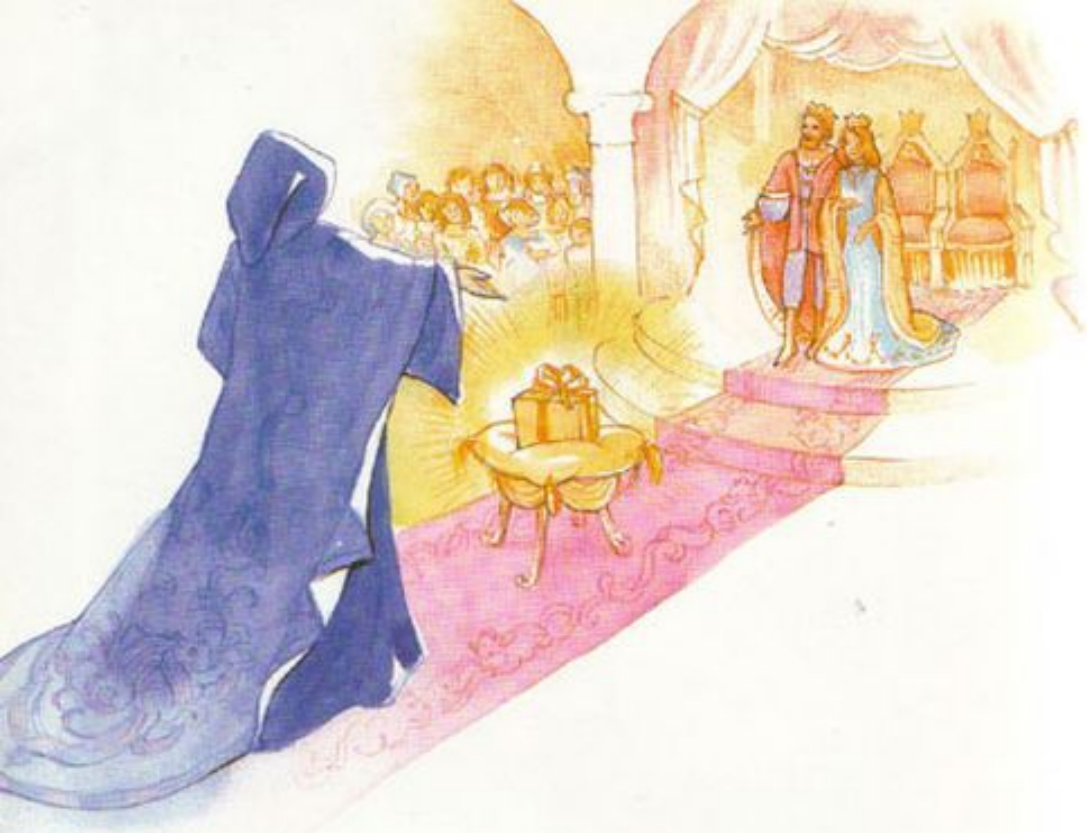
At the castle the greatest party in the history of the kingdom was held to celebrate the birth of the beautiful baby, who was named Lady LovelyLocks. Flutes, fiddles, fifes, and drums played while fair ladies danced around the new princess.

Not far from the kingdom of LovelyLocks, in a dark castle deep in the heart of Tangleland, Grand Duchess RavenHair was furious. When her daughter, RavenWaves, was born two years before, no one attended her party. Everyone feared the mean, spiteful duchess and her hideous land.

Now RavenHair told her evil counselor, HairBall, "I will use my magic to break up the party and drive the royal family out of LovelyLocks forever. Then I will rule!"

HairBall pulled his chin nervously. "Are you sure you can control your magic?" he said, fretting. "Last time . . ."

"Silence, fool! I have a plan," the duchess snapped, and she mixed a foul-smelling potion and recited an evil spell.



Leaving little RavenWaves in the care of her nanny, RavenHair put on her finest gown and went to the party.

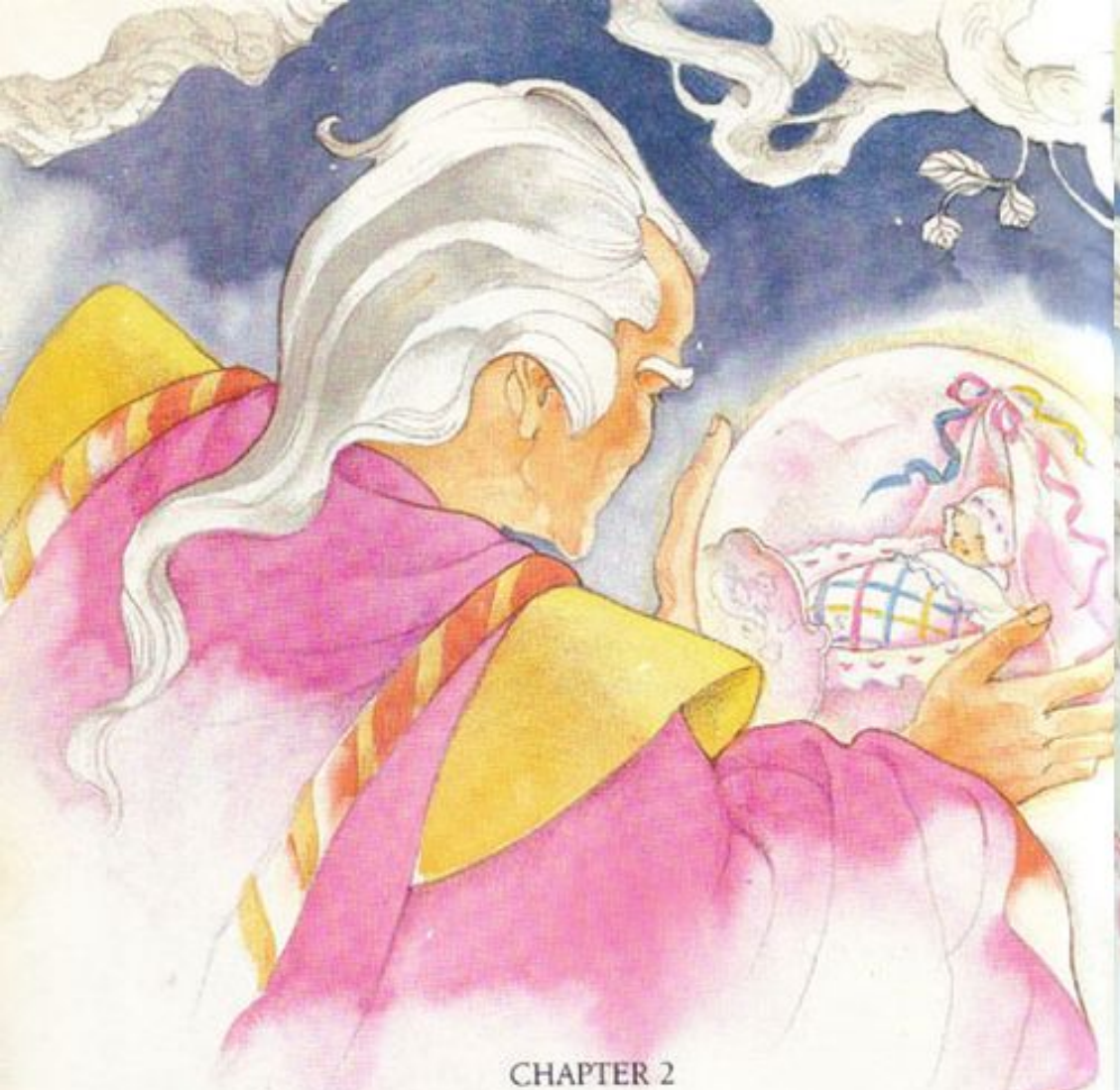
Lady LovelyLocks had just been carried away to the nursery for her nap. A silence fell across the room when the duchess made her entrance. Then in false friendship RavenHair handed the queen a beautifully wrapped present for the princess. When the queen untied the ribbon, the lid of the box lifted by itself.

"Look!" the guests exclaimed.

"It's a little tornado," someone gasped.

But it didn't stay little for long. The spiral of wind grew and grew, lifting napkins and birthday cards, swirling and tangling hair and veils, gowns and capes. It pulled the food off the tables and the instruments right out of the musicians' hands.

And still the wind blew, until it blew everything and everyone—even the Grand Duchess RavenHair—out the open windows and far away, never to be seen again.



CHAPTER 2

Behold the Princess!

In a castle near the Frosted Mountains an old wizard named ShiningGlory watched the events in his crystal ball. He was too far away to undo RavenHair's spell. But he could help the princess, who had been in her cradle in another room and was spared when the evil tornado struck.

ShiningGlory summoned Silkymane, the swiftest of the kingdom's noble horses, and instructed her to take the princess from the palace and deliver her to a certain farm near the edge of the kingdom.

The farmer and his wife were known throughout the land for their kindness and generosity, and ShiningGlory knew the princess would have a good home there. Indeed, the couple raised Lady LovelyLocks as if she were one of their own children. They loved her, even though they had no idea who she really was.

Lady LovelyLocks grew up to be good and kind and beautiful. Always fair-minded, she peacefully settled arguments among her brothers and sisters. Somehow she left them smiling and wondering why they had ever been angry.

All the farm animals loved Lady LovelyLocks because she was so gentle. And she had such a talent for gardening that it seemed as if the flowers bloomed at her touch.

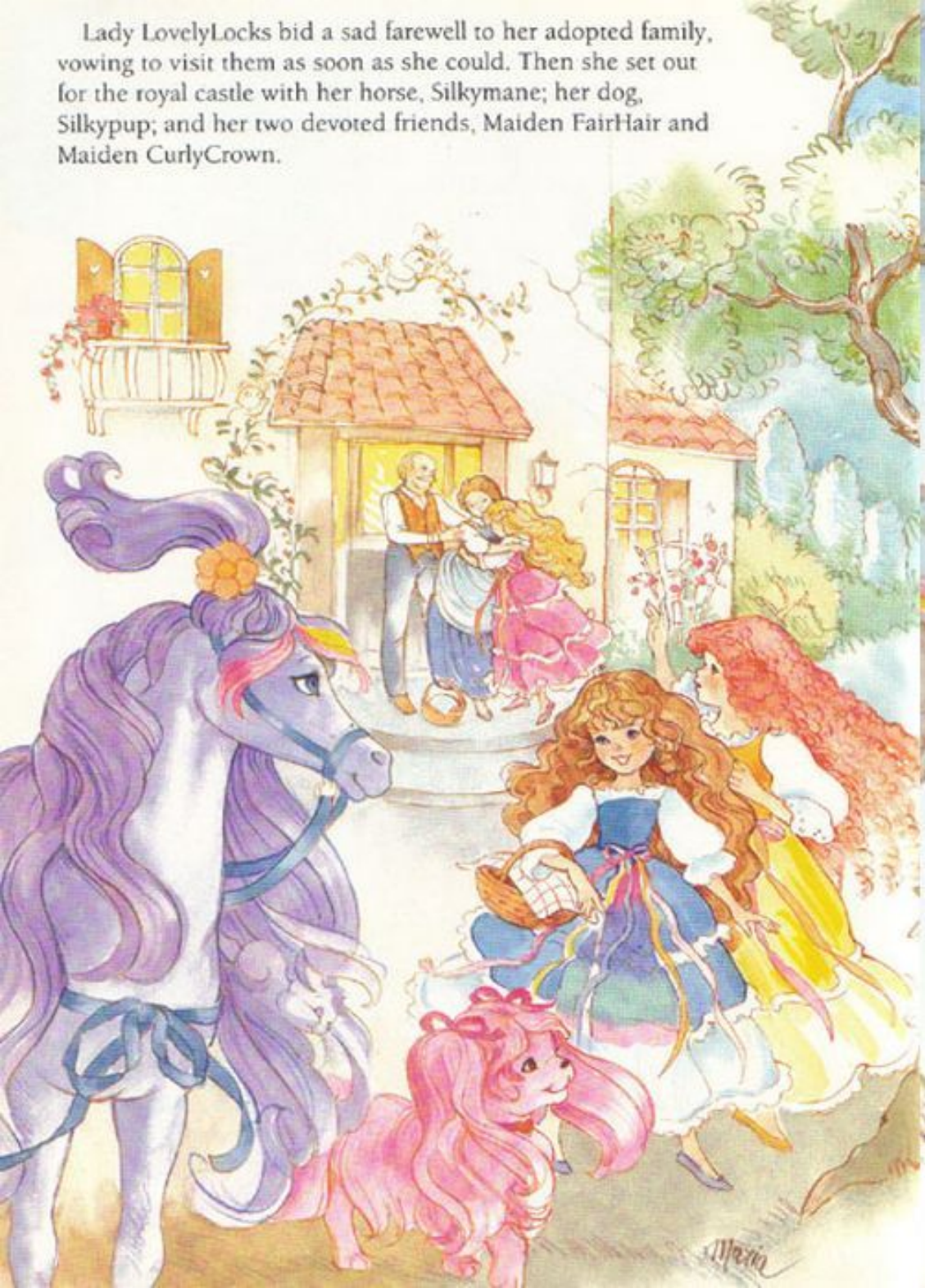
Above all, Lady LovelyLocks developed the ability to see the beauty deep inside anybody or anything, no matter how humble or homely, if goodness dwelled there.

The princess's life was happy and peaceful. But when Lady LovelyLocks awoke one morning, she was startled to see her beautiful blond hair streaked with the colors of the rainbow.

"It must be magic," she said with amazement.

"It's the mark of royalty," the farmer's wife told her, curtsying in respect and admiration. "You must be the princess of our lovely land. We thought you were lost with the others when Grand Duchess RavenHair brought an evil tornado to the castle. Now you can claim your rightful throne."

Lady LovelyLocks bid a sad farewell to her adopted family, vowing to visit them as soon as she could. Then she set out for the royal castle with her horse, Silkymane; her dog, Silkypup; and her two devoted friends, Maiden FairHair and Maiden CurlyCrown.



When they arrived, they were all shocked. Moss had overgrown the walls and windows of the castle. Cobwebs and weeds choked what was once the rose garden. And not a soul was in sight. It appeared that whoever had escaped the tornado had left in fear.

Tears filled the eyes of Lady LovelyLocks. "Enough," she told herself. "We have work to do." And she and her friends began to restore the castle's former beauty.

Cuddly little creatures with long silky tails, called Pixietails, came to help. Lady LovelyLocks discovered that by shaking her rainbow-streaked locks, she could magically call the Pixietails whenever she needed their assistance. With a twix of their magic tails, they were able to make anything beautiful—adding a dash of sparkle, a bouncy curl, or a smooth, silky wave.

Besides helping the girls, the Pixietails loved to play with Silkymane and Silkypup, riding on their backs and using hair magic to create new styles for their long silky hair.

Soon the work at the castle was finished, and word went out across the land that the people had a ruler once again.

CHAPTER 3

RavenWaves Has Her Way

News of the return of Lady LovelyLocks also filtered through the gnarled, twisted trees of Tangleland and reached the ears of RavenWaves, daughter of the spiteful Grand Duchess RavenHair. RavenWaves smashed her mirror and pulled her hair into angry spikes.

"The people say she's wise and fair and beautiful. Hah! What do they know?" she said to HairBall, who was serving RavenWaves as he had served her mother. "I'm far more beautiful, and they'll know that when I'm finished with Lady LovelyLocks. I will rule the kingdom myself!"

"Then we must plan," HairBall hissed.

The next day, while Lady LovelyLocks and her friends were making daisy chains in the garden, a strange-looking creature the size of a Pixietail stole up to the princess and recited: "Countess ComelyTresses requests the presence of Lady LovelyLocks and her maidens at tea this afternoon. The beautiful countess wishes to pay tribute and become a member of the Lady's court."

She blinked her eyes and waited for a reply.

Lady LovelyLocks nodded graciously. "I have never heard of Countess ComelyTresses," she said. "But that is all the more reason to meet her and welcome her to my land."

"Then follow me," said the creature, scampering off. After a hasty good-bye to Silkypup and the Pixietails, Lady LovelyLocks and the maidens followed her.

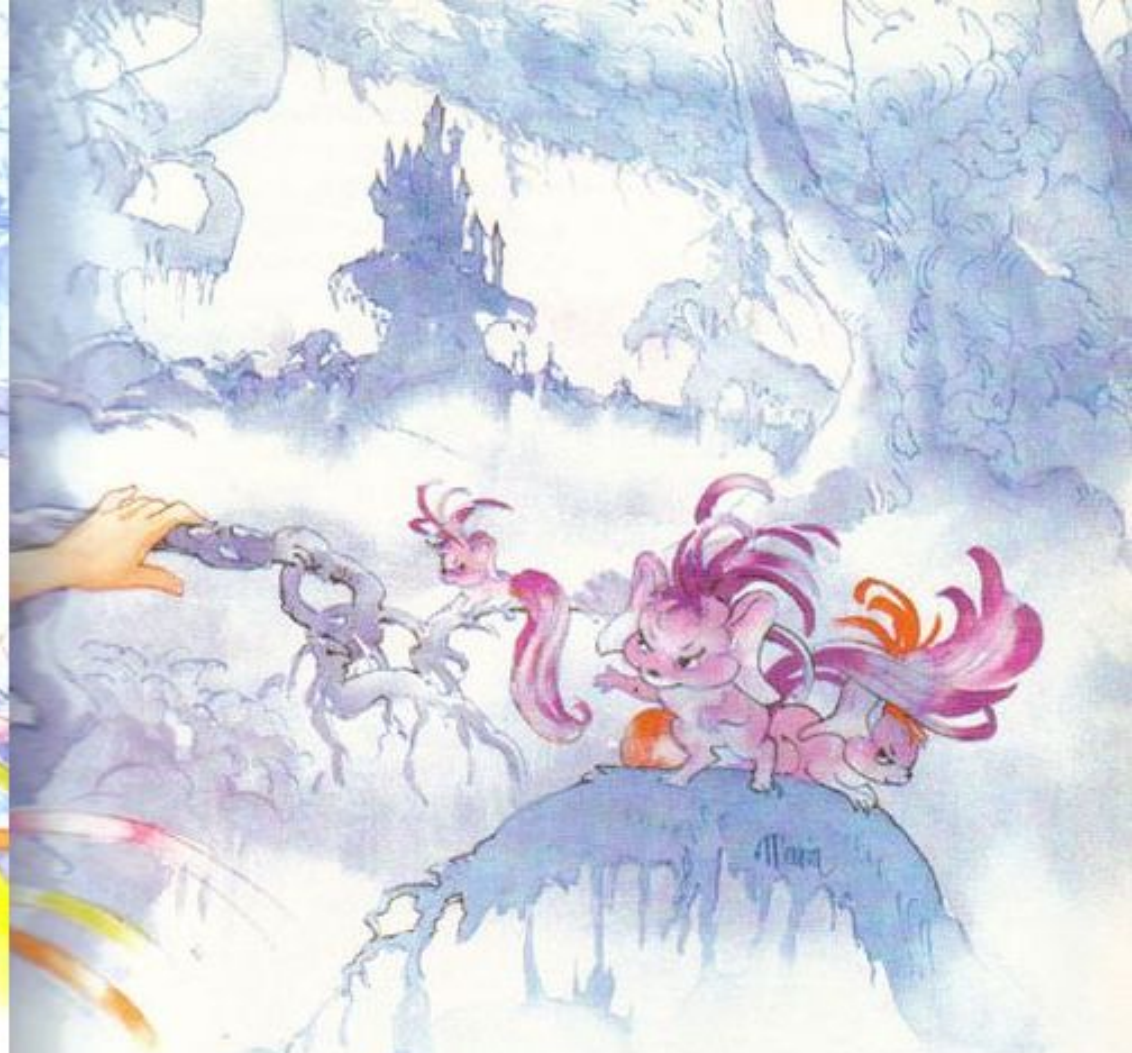
Lady LovelyLocks studied the creature's matted fur and nasty expression, trying to see through her ugliness and find her inner beauty. When Lady saw none, she became suspicious.

At that moment Maiden FairHair whispered in her ear, "It looks as if we're entering the Forest of Never Known. The legends say it got its name because its paths are constantly changing. If we go too far in, we may never find our way out."

Lady LovelyLocks hesitated. "We have already accepted the countess's invitation. It would be rude to turn back without an excuse."

"How about the excuse that I'm frightened?" Maiden CurlyCrown suggested, her green eyes wide with fear.

The bright day was suddenly dimmed by shadows under the dense cover of trees. And when Lady LovelyLocks looked for the path behind them, branches stretched across it as if the path had never been there at all. Eyes stared at them from the shadows. They were surrounded by creatures like the one leading them.



Lady LovelyLocks took a deep breath and gathered her courage. She reached for the maidens' hands.

"At my signal we run as fast as we can," she whispered.

But just then the trees in front of them parted to reveal a castle, tall and narrow, covered with tangled vines and matted moss. The little creatures gathered all around the girls, ushering them into the castle through a rusted iron door. FairHair shivered as it closed behind them with an ominous clang.

The inside of the castle was richly decorated with tapestries, rugs, candelabras, and mirrors. It should have been pretty, but somehow it looked cluttered and ugly.

The girls were led to a long table laid with a silver tea set and a lavish array of sandwiches, cookies, and cakes. Jasmine tea scented the air.

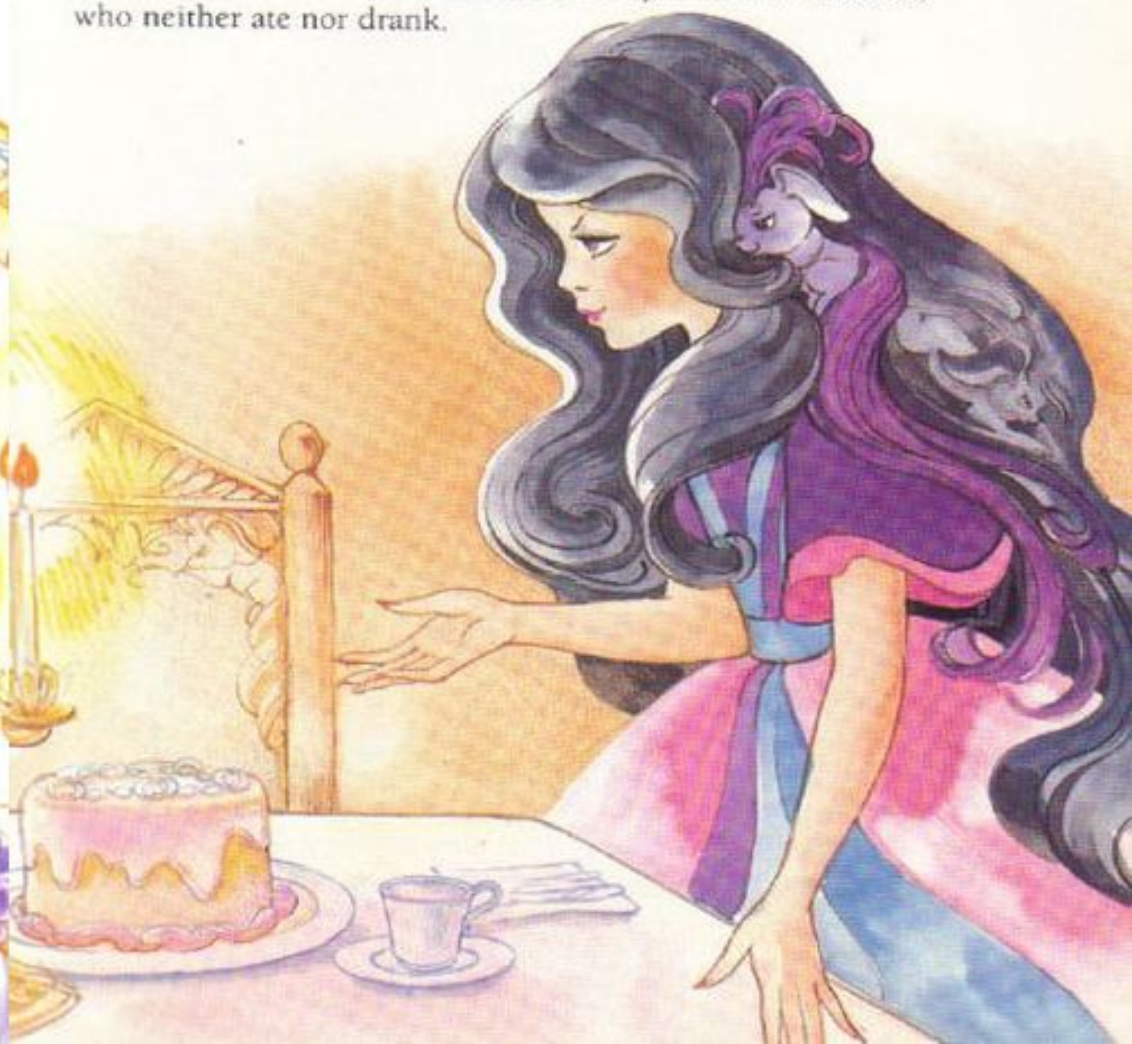
As Maiden CurlyCrown gazed longingly at the delicious-looking cookies, a door opened at the other end of the room. A tall girl with flowing black hair, wearing a glittering violet gown, announced, "I am Countess ComelyTresses."

Lady LovelyLocks and the maidens introduced themselves in turn.

"Please enjoy the refreshments," the countess urged, gracefully filling three cups with tea.

Lady LovelyLocks searched for signs of inner beauty in her hostess's pretty face. But she found no goodness shining through the violet eyes and rosebud mouth. All the beauty was on the surface, and what Lady LovelyLocks glimpsed beneath it alarmed her.

While CurlyCrown eagerly ate cookies, and FairHair sipped her tea, Lady LovelyLocks lifted her cup but only pretended to drink. She never took her eyes off their hostess, who neither ate nor drank.



Suddenly CurlyCrown yawned. FairHair's chin dropped to her chest, then bobbed up again. "It must be the long walk . . ." she began, but her voice trailed off into a yawn, a sigh, and sleep.

Then Maiden CurlyCrown, too, was asleep, a half-eaten cookie dangling in her hand. Lady LovelyLocks was certain that something in the tea and the food had made her friends so sleepy.

Countess ComelyTresses looked concerned: "Lady LovelyLocks, is everything to your liking? You haven't eaten a bite."

Lady LovelyLocks yawned and accepted a cookie. The countess smiled and turned to admire herself in one of the room's many mirrors.

When her hostess wasn't looking, Lady LovelyLocks slipped the cookie up the puffed sleeve of her gown. Then she pretended to fall asleep.

"What fools!" the countess cackled. "Now the Kingdom of LovelyLocks will be mine. My Comb Gnomes will turn its beauty to ugliness so that my beauty can shine like a single jewel in the land."

Suddenly it was all clear to Lady LovelyLocks. This was Tangleland. The girl with the flowing black hair was RavenWaves, daughter of Grand Duchess RavenHair, who had tried to destroy the kingdom with her magic tornado. And the ugly little creatures were Comb Gnomes, who did their mistress's dirty work.

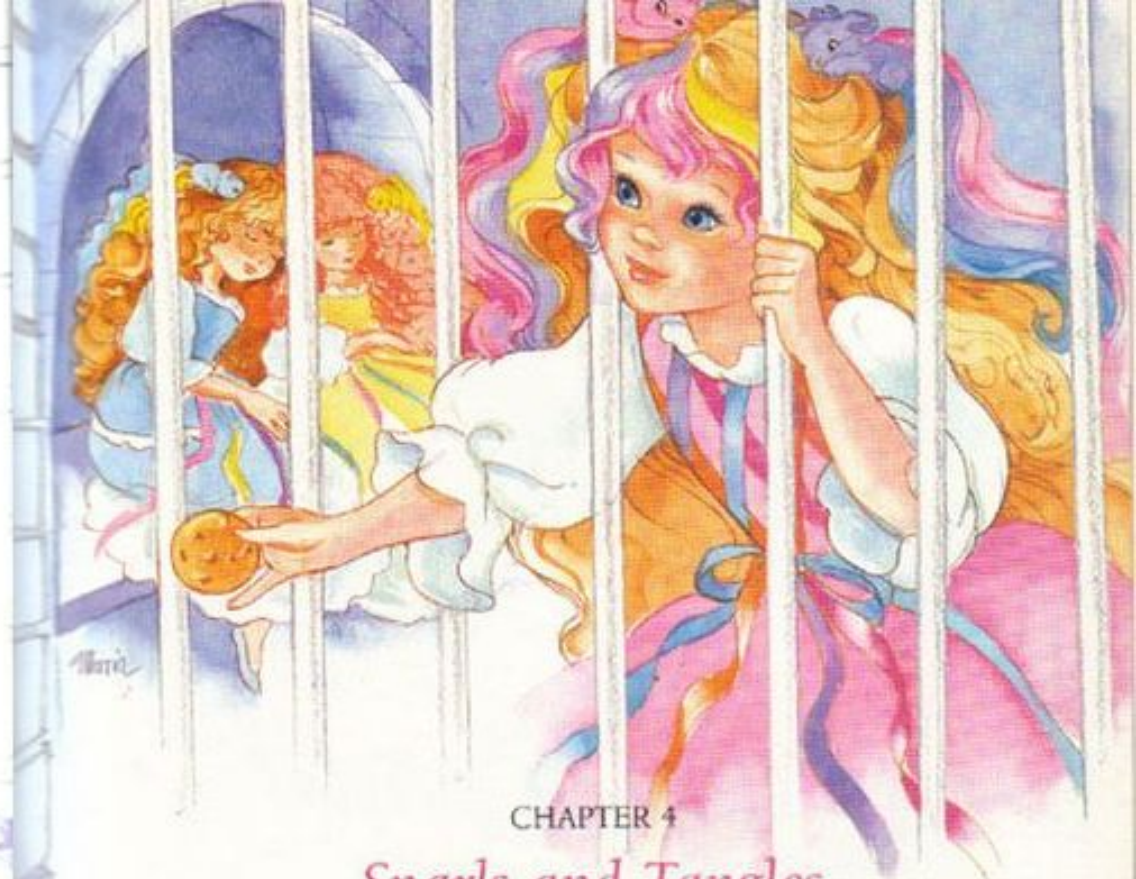
Lady LovelyLocks heard footsteps, and through her feathery eyelashes she glimpsed a hairy presence.

"Shall I take your 'guests' to the dungeon?" HairBall said with a snicker.

He and the Comb Gnomes carried the girls down to the dank dungeon, dimly lit by torches. Lady LovelyLocks tried to see as much as she could along the way without revealing that she was awake. The girls were locked in an iron-barred cell with damp straw on the floor.

"Guard them well, MessMutt," HairBall told a huge shaggy dog, "or RavenWaves will have your hide."

The dog growled, and the spikes on his collar flashed in the torchlight.

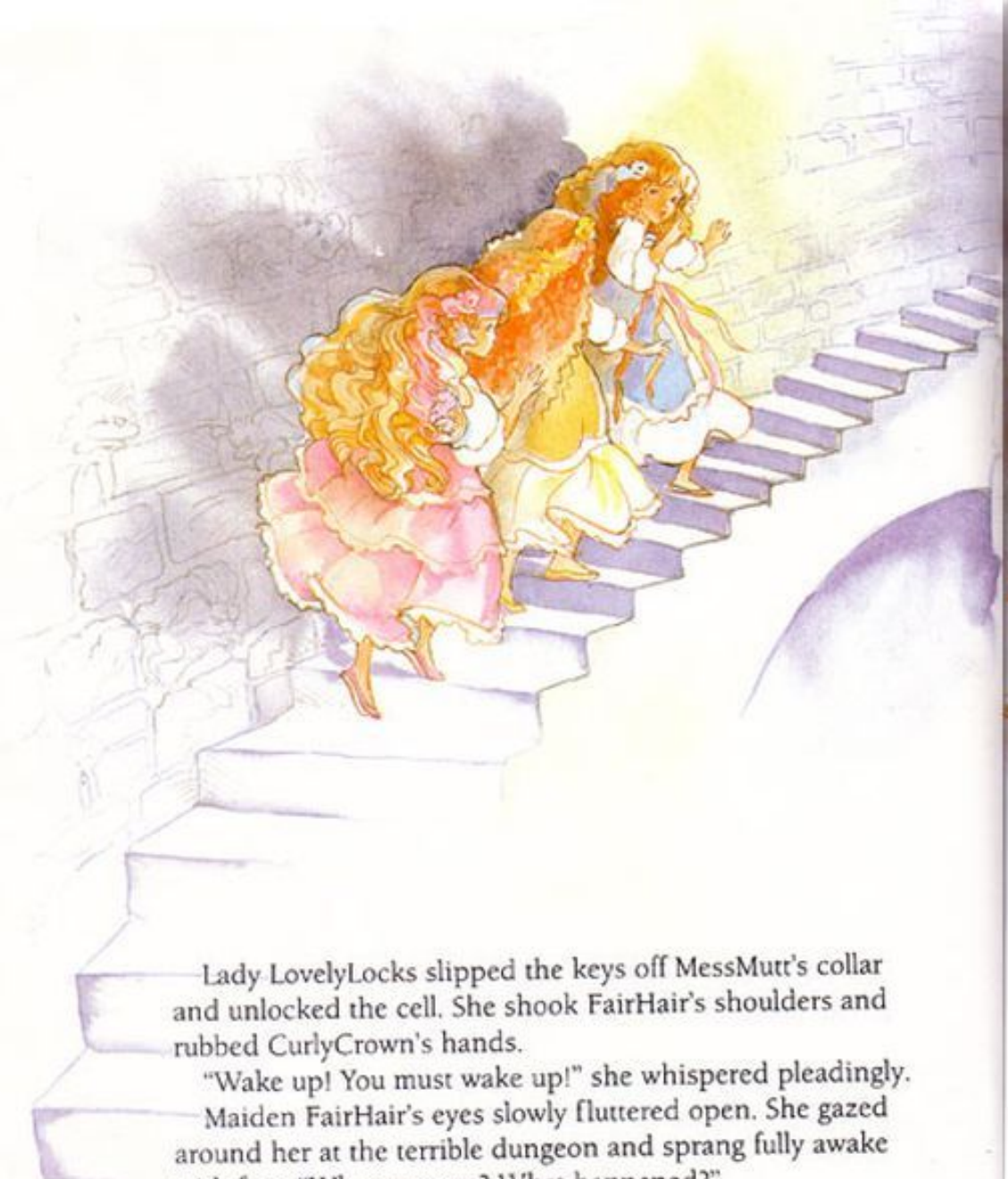


CHAPTER 4

Snarls and Tangles

As soon as HairBall was gone Lady LovelyLocks opened her eyes. She thought she had seen HairBall attach the dungeon keys to MessMutt's spiked collar, and there they were, gleaming in his matted fur. If only she could use her extraordinary ability to tame animals. . . .

Lady LovelyLocks smiled at the snarling guard dog and started to sing a sweet, gentle song. The dog came nearer to listen. The princess pushed her hand through the bars of the cell to pet him, and the dog came nearer still. Lady LovelyLocks reached up her sleeve and gave MessMutt the cookie she had hidden there. He gobbled it greedily and was soon fast asleep.



Lady LovelyLocks slipped the keys off MessMutt's collar and unlocked the cell. She shook FairHair's shoulders and rubbed CurlyCrown's hands.

"Wake up! You must wake up!" she whispered pleadingly.

Maiden FairHair's eyes slowly fluttered open. She gazed around her at the terrible dungeon and sprang fully awake with fear. "Where are we? What happened?"

Lady LovelyLocks quickly explained as they struggled to rouse CurlyCrown. At last their friend drowsily opened her eyes. Leaning on Maiden FairHair and Lady LovelyLocks, Maiden CurlyCrown was able to make her way up the dungeon's long twisting stairs.

The girls pressed against cold stone walls, hiding from Comb Gnomes at every turn. Lady LovelyLocks led her friends to an exit she had glimpsed on the way down to the dungeon.

When they were finally outside, they blinked happily in the sunlight. Maiden CurlyCrown gulped the fresh air, and it revived her. Lady LovelyLocks shook her long blond hair. The rainbow streaks seemed to come alive, glowing and sparkling as they sent out their magic signal to summon the Pixietails.

"We will need their help to find our way home," she explained.

That very instant the castle alarm sounded.

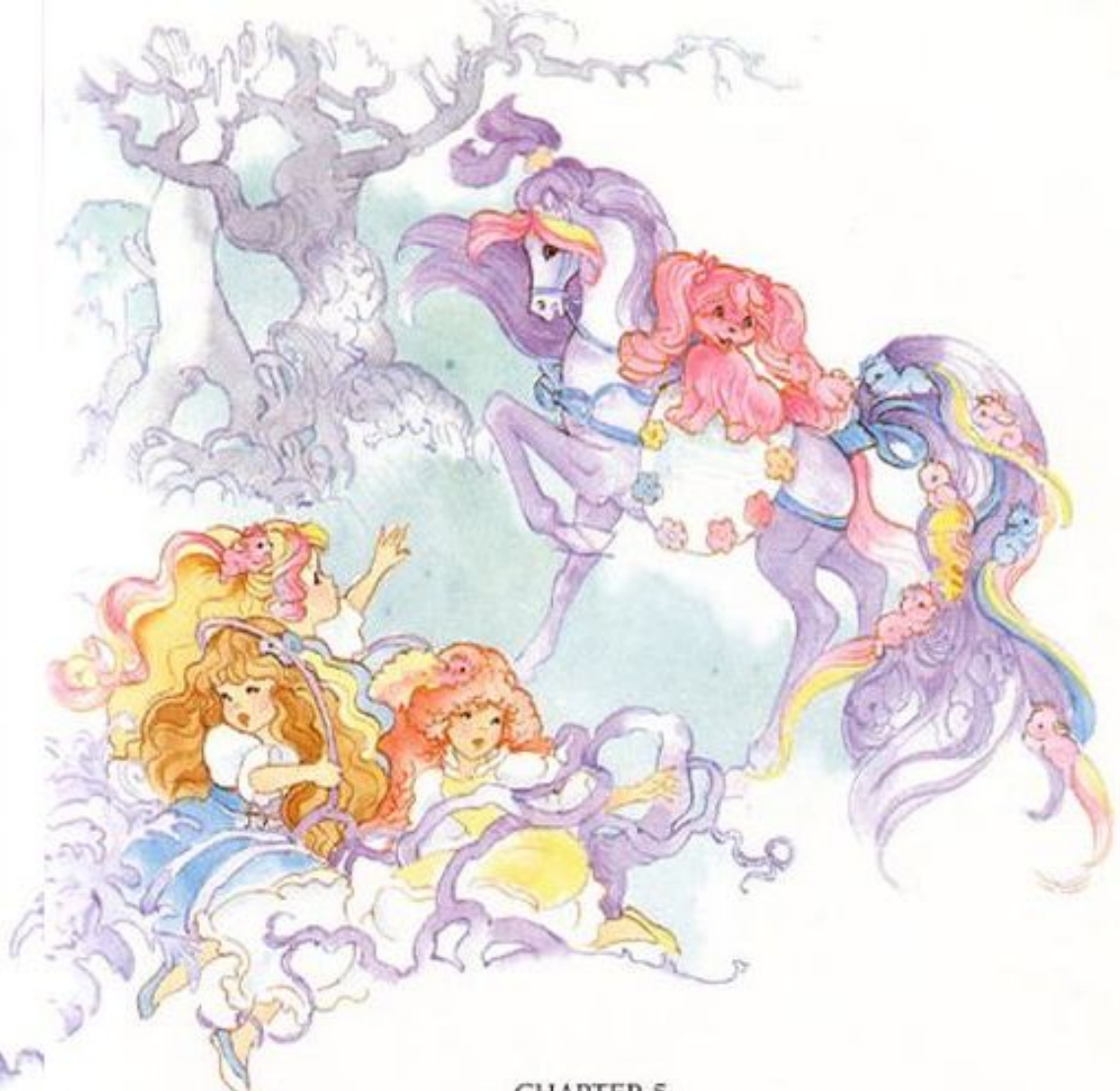
"Escaped prisoners!" a Comb Gnome shouted.

"When RavenWaves gets back from touring her new kingdom, she will be furious," another fretted.

Lady LovelyLocks, CurlyCrown, and FairHair bolted for the forest, but it was hard to walk in the tangled weeds, roots, and branches.

"There they are!" shrieked a Comb Gnome, and her shrill cry brought others in quick pursuit.

As they tried to escape, the girls fell into a Tangletrap, becoming hopelessly ensnared in its nettles and vines.



CHAPTER 5

To the Rescue

Suddenly the three prisoners heard a thundering of hooves. Silkymane burst through the forest and reared up on her mighty hindquarters. On her back Silkypup barked with joy at seeing her mistress. A dozen little Pixietails clung to Silkymane's rainbow mane and tail.

Silkymane whinnied and stamped in order to frighten away the Comb Gnomes. Silkypup jumped down to nip at their heels. Pixiepoo, a Pixietail known for her magic potions, poured a special untangling mixture over the trap to free the girls.

The Comb Gnomes did their best to tangle hair, gowns, and ribbons. The girls stumbled over roots, blinded by their messy hair, which caught on twigs and nettles.

But the Pixietails' magic was stronger. They flew, hopped, and bounded about, smoothing and untangling, until the defeated Comb Gnomes went scurrying into the woods.

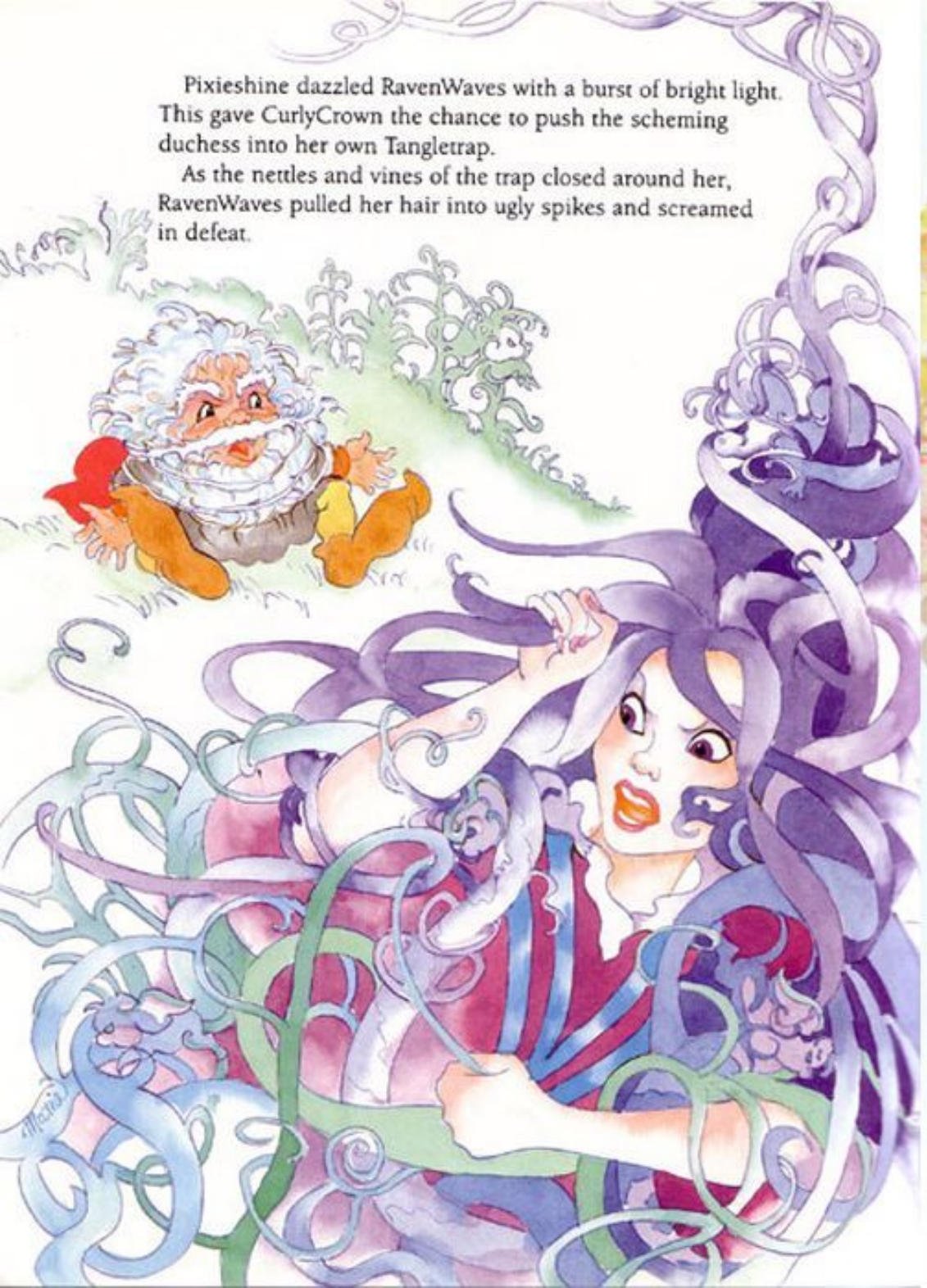
Just as Lady LovelyLocks and her friends were about to start home, RavenWaves and HairBall returned. When RavenWaves saw Lady LovelyLocks and the maidens, she shrieked with fury. "My prisoners have escaped! And where are my Comb Gnomes? Someone's to blame and someone will pay!"

The nasty little creatures stayed hidden in the forest. They were even more afraid of RavenWaves's anger than they had been of the Pixietails or strong Silkymane.

RavenWaves lunged for Lady LovelyLocks. But Pixietwist wove a protective circle around all three girls. Meanwhile, Pixiebraid tied up HairBall in his own mangy hair.

Pixieshine dazzled RavenWaves with a burst of bright light. This gave CurlyCrown the chance to push the scheming duchess into her own Tangletrap.

As the nettles and vines of the trap closed around her, RavenWaves pulled her hair into ugly spikes and screamed in defeat.



CHAPTER 6

Happily Ever After

On their way back to Castle LovelyLocks the girls marveled at all the damage RavenWaves and HairBall had caused in their brief tour of the kingdom. Branches were twisted, leaves were tattered, and roots were snarled. Birds' nests were matted with dirt, and flowers withered on their stems.

With loving care and lots of hair magic the Pixietails smoothed, curled, and combed the land so that it was even more beautiful than before.

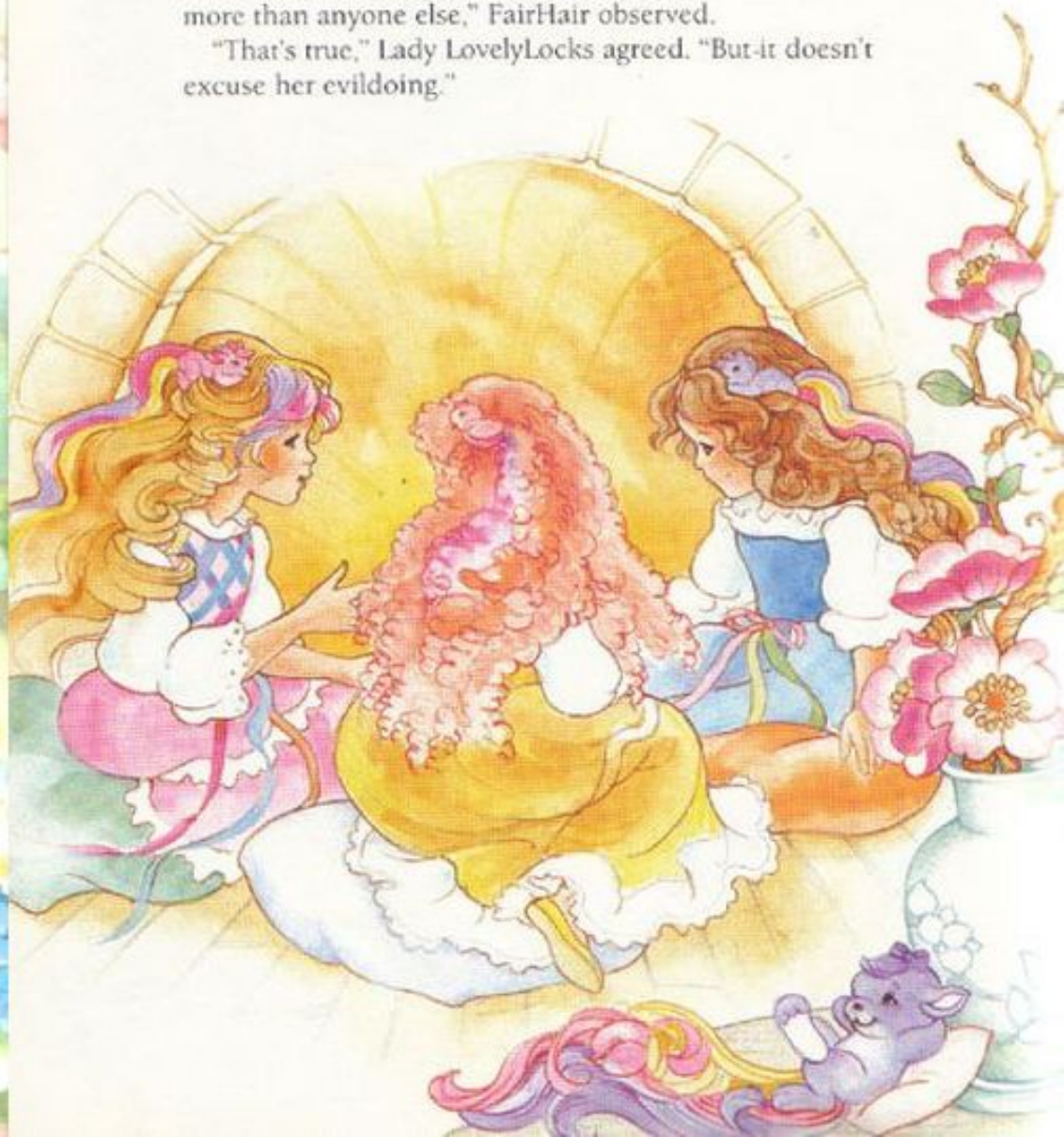
That night, after supper, Lady LovelyLocks, Maiden FairHair, and Maiden CurlyCrown gathered around the fire and discussed their adventure.

"I feel sorry for RavenWaves," gentle FairHair said.

"Sorry for the girl who tricked us and locked us in the dungeon?" CurlyCrown asked, her strawberry-blond curls bouncing with anger.

"Twisted and tangled in her own jealousy, she hurts herself more than anyone else," FairHair observed.

"That's true," Lady LovelyLocks agreed. "But it doesn't excuse her evildoing."



FairHair shivered. "When I think of that dungeon . . ."

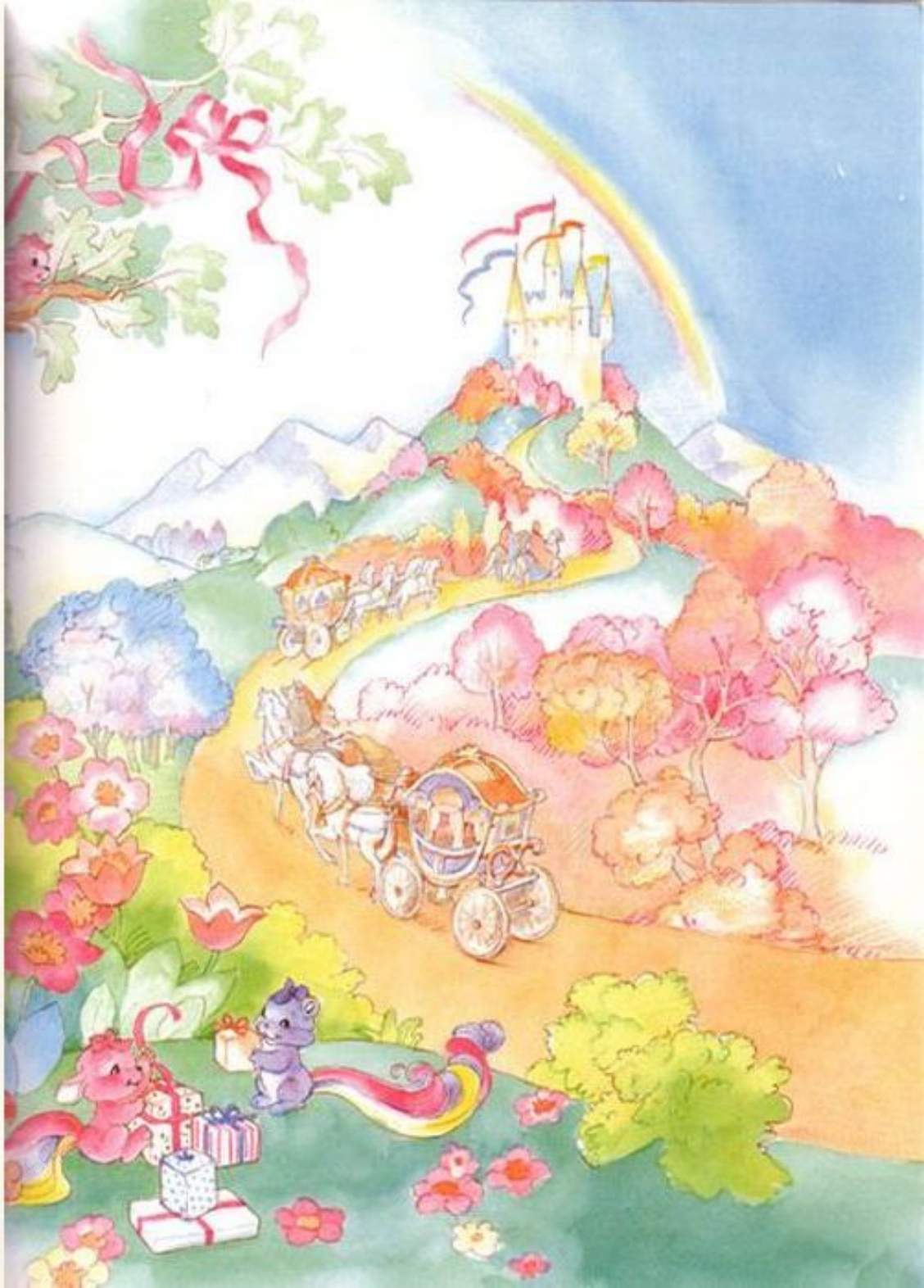
"Please don't," CurlyCrown interrupted, moving closer to the fire.

"It was awful," Lady LovelyLocks said. "But as my friend the great wizard ShiningGlory once told me, 'Whenever good must face evil, remember that good is stronger and will conquer.'

"And," she continued, "it helps to have good friends on your side."

Silkypup barked and jumped into her lap. "You're a good friend, too," Lady LovelyLocks said.

Then everyone settled in for a long cozy evening, feeling safe and happy to be together.



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